



CONNECTICUT AFL-CIO

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Testimony of Lori Pelletier, Secretary-Treasurer Connecticut AFLCIO
before the Labor and Public Employees committee
March 5, 2013

Senator Osten and Representative Tercyak and members of the committee my name is Lori Pelletier and I am here to testify on behalf of the 900 affiliated local unions of the Connecticut AFLCIO. Before you today are a number of bills which we are here in support of. We appreciate the work of this committee and the opportunity to testify today.

H.B. No. 6556 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING SICK BUILDINGS. (LAB)

We support this legislation. It has been said that if we don't learn our history we are doomed to repeat it. Not to long ago many work locations contained lead or asbestos, workers died and families had to cope with the unnecessary loss of a loved one. If we flash forward to the last twenty years we are now finding buildings contain not lead or asbestos but mold, mildew and bacteria.

Workers who are unknowingly being exposed to this hazard are now bearing the burden and after time this repeated exposure manifests itself and causes the worker to become injured. As with any injured worker situation it's also the family who is injured when the worker isn't working or able to join in family functions the household is also losing. As our workplaces transform so should our protections for workers and their families.

The World Health Organization offered a report and it suggested that up to 30 percent of new and remodeled buildings worldwide may be the subject of excessive complaints related to indoor air quality. Frequently, problems result when a building is operated or maintained in a manner that is inconsistent with its original design or prescribed operating procedures. Sometimes indoor air problems are a result of poor building design or occupant activities.

Sick building syndrome poses a health risk for all workers and deserves the respect and attention as any other workplace injury receives by being covered under the workers compensation system.

Thank you to the committee for holding this public hearing.

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